

CHAPTER NO. 895**SENATE BILL NO. 2723****By Woodson, Burks, Miller, Harper****Substituted for: House Bill No. 2807****By Winningham, Cooper, Maddox, Marrero, Larry Turner, Sontany, Lois DeBerry, Brown,
Favors**

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to alternative education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3402(f)(2), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(2) The state board of education shall provide a curriculum for alternative schools to ensure students receive specialized attention needed to maximize student success. Alternative schools shall offer alternative learning environments in which students are offered a variety of educational opportunities, such as learning at different rates of time or utilizing different, but successful, learning strategies, techniques and tools.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 34, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 49-6-34__.

(a) There is established an advisory council for alternative education that shall advise, assist and consult with the governor, the Commissioner of Education and the state board of education.

(b)(1) The advisory council shall be composed of a maximum of ten (10) members, including parents of children attending alternative schools or who have attended alternative schools, teachers or principals serving in alternative schools, members of local boards of education, at least one (1) community representative concerned with alternative education, and at least one (1) representative of an educators' association concerned with alternative education.

(2) The governor shall appoint the members of the advisory council for three-year terms; except for the appointment of the initial members. In appointing the initial members to the advisory council, each member shall be designated as filling an odd-numbered seat or an even-numbered seat. The members appointed to the odd-numbered seats shall serve three-year terms and the members appointed to the even-numbered seats shall serve two-year terms.

(3) Vacancies shall be filled for an unexpired term in the same manner as original appointments.

(c)(1) The advisory council annually shall elect its own chair and vice chair.

(2) A representative of the Commissioner of Education shall meet with and act as secretary to the advisory council. The commissioner, within available personnel and appropriations, shall furnish meeting facilities and staff services for the advisory council.

(d) All members of the advisory council shall serve without compensation, but shall be eligible for reimbursement for travel expenses in accordance with the provisions of the comprehensive travel regulations as promulgated by the Department of Finance and Administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

(e) The advisory council shall:

(1) Consider any issue, problem or matter related to alternative education presented to it by the governor, the commissioner, or the state board of education, and give advice thereon;

(2) Study proposed plans for alternative education programs or curricula to determine if such plans or curricula should be adopted;

(3) Study alternative education programs or curricula implemented in Tennessee school systems to determine the effectiveness of such programs or curricula and alternative education programs or curricula implemented in other states to determine if such programs or curricula should be adopted in Tennessee schools;


(4) Consider rules of governance of alternative school and make recommendations concerning such; and

(5) Make an annual report to the governor, the Education Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Commissioner of Education and the state board of education on the state of alternative education in Tennessee. The report shall be submitted prior to February 1 of each year.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 26, 2006


JOHN S. WILDER
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE


JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 20th day of June 2006


PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR